

Feasibility Study on Agricultural Development for the Karak-Tafila Region, Jordan

(Period of the study: 4.8months from October 1989 Our assignments: Arid Land Agriculture)

Background of the Study

Jordan Government gave high priority to the agricultural development aiming at the strengthening of food security and the correction of unbalanced regional economy. People in Karak-Tafila region depends the greater part of their income on cultivation of wheat and barley using rainwater. However, their productivity is low, and both cultivation area and the yield are highly influenced by the precipitation of the year. The feasibility study was carried out in order to formulate an agricultural development plan through introduction of water-harvesting cultivation to the region. Water-harvesting cultivation is a method of cultivation under scarce rainfalls and its effectiveness at some arid regions is proved in many countries. Some of the progressive farmers in Jordan have already introduced this method under commercial base and acquired high yield.

Outline of the Study

Three priority areas that represent characters of the region were selected and the survey was carried out to investigate the present situation and to collect and analyze various information such as natural condition, social condition, land use, crop production, livestock production, farmers' support and farmer's economy. Also, farm survey has been carried out to investigate the problems that farmers are facing and the actual situation of farmers. Furthermore, the experiments on water-harvesting carried out by research stations and universities were inspected and also the actual water-harvesting projects were investigated. Based on the results obtained from such activities, agricultural development plans on land use, crop production, livestock production and afforestation were formulated.

Our Assignments

- Collection and analysis of information on crop production and farmers' support at the priority areas,
- Investigation of problems that farmers are facing and the actual situation of farmers and the analysis of the result,
- Inspection of research activities and present projects related to water-harvesting, and
- Formulation of crops production plan and afforestation plan.

